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GEORGIA COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER



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GC senior picnic, pg. 4



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GC still divided on campus carry legislation

**Isaiah
Smith**
Staff Writer

Since House Bill 250 was adopted in May, GC is doing its part to make sure students, faculty and staff on campus understand when and where they can carry weapons on campus.

“We have guidance from the board office for how to proceed with handling this,” said Don Challis, GC’s chief of police. “The interpretation of this bill is not ours. It comes from the board.”

At the information session, Challis covered various areas of the new legislation and helped attendees understand when and where it is appropriate to carry concealed weapons on campus.

Permit holders are not allowed to carry in areas like athletic facilities, faculty offices, and residence halls.

Classrooms with high school students are also off limits for students or staff members who wish to carry. Challis also said it is the permit holders’ responsibility to check with the registrar’s office to find out if it is legal for them to carry in each of their classrooms.

Along with this, Challis also informed session attendees what to do if they encounter someone carrying a weapon and feel unsafe.

“This hasn’t happened yet, but if somebody is uncertain about a weapon in a classroom and calls us, we’re going to ask what type of weapon is it, how’s it being displayed and what the person with the weapon is doing,” said Challis. “We want to focus on behaviors and not so much the presence of a weapon.”

With GC’s increased effort to make sure people know where they can carry on campus, Challis said the issue has not been as prevalent as many people thought it was going to be before the school year began.

“I don’t know if there are more or fewer guns on campus this year. If there is a higher or lower number, I’d imagine the number is probably insignificant,” said Challis. “Thus far, nobody has had an issue, and we haven’t had anybody call in a complaint or concern.”

But even though GC is doing its part to educate those on campus about the new bill, some faculty and students still feel uneasy about the legislation.

“I don’t think that guns are conducive to a campus environment where we come together and share knowledge in a peaceful and collegial environment,” said Aran MacKinnon, chair of the history department. “Nothing in history says that

more guns reduce violence. In fact, the opposite is true, as more guns means more people are likely to get hurt.”

Hali Sofala-Jones, an English and rhetoric professor at GC, echoed MacKinnon’s concern about the new legislation.

“I don’t feel that it makes me any safer,” said Sofala-Jones. “The bill hasn’t impacted me personally yet, but I feel the idea for it is unnecessary.”

Despite apprehension from some, others on campus, like senior Alex Hammer, are not kicking against the new legislation.

“I think campus carry is a good idea,” said Hammer, a management major. “It will be a deterrent to any possible active shooter.”

Like Hammer, James Baugh, a math professor, has no problem with the new legislation, but he does not think its passage will bring major change at GC.

“In terms of impact, I think this bill will have zero impact, and it won’t change much in terms of behavior,” said Baugh. “The Constitution gives people the right to bear arms with the Second Amendment, so I’m for it. But I do think politicians should spend more time on other issues and not waste time with things like this because I don’t think we’ll see any change.”

According to Challis, Baugh’s belief about the bill having little impact on the campus has held true thus far in the school year.

“The reality of it is we have a very traditional aged student population,” said Challis. “Most of our students are between 18 and 23, so we don’t have a lot of students who are 21 who want a permit that actually get a permit and want to carry with all the hurdles they have to go through.”

Even though some members of the GC community are firmly planted on both sides of the issue, there are still those who are not sure how to feel about the bill’s implementation.

“I’m on the fence about it,” said senior Eric Gould, a history and rhetoric major. “I feel like if someone wanted to bring a gun on campus, they would whether there is a law or not. But on the other hand, people would possibly be able to protect themselves if there were a shooter on campus.”

Even with so many differing opinions about the bill on campus, Challis insisted that the issue has not been a big deal for anyone at GC this semester.

“From faculty, staff and students to registrar’s office, nobody has had any issues so far,” said Challis. “It’s just not the issue that people thought it was going to be.”



Emily Bryant / Staff Photographer

This senior political science major, who is now free to carry his pistol on campus, said he feels he can protect himself and others if danger ever approaches Georgia College.



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Seniors connect with prospective employers at annual senior picnic

Emily McClure
Staff Writer

GC seniors flocked to Magnolia Ballroom to enjoy a picnic provided by GC's Career Center at lunchtime on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

After burgers and chips catered by Sodexo, seniors filled out graduation applications, scheduled their senior check-in appointments with the Career Center, secured their official senior t-shirt and visited with prospective employers who sponsored the event. The sponsoring organizations included Geico, Norfolk Southern, Sherman-Williams, Waffle House, the U.S. Marine Corps and the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds at Lake Oconee.

"It takes six to nine months to find the job you really want, even an internship," said Career Center

Director Mary Roberts. "We wanted to have a kick-off event to get them started. So we started doing this event six or seven years ago to get seniors starting their job and grad school search early."

Roberts said the picnic averages 400 seniors in attendance each year, and the Career Center has seen its interaction with seniors increase as a result of the event.

The sponsoring employers, many of whom have hired GC graduates before, said they find GC students to be professional and interactive.

"The students are personable," said Starr Person, a human resources business partner at Norfolk Southern. "They can shake hands, and they can make direct eye contact, which is the very beginning of the conversation."

Marissa Edwards, director of all things fun at the Ritz-Carlton

Reynolds at Lake Oconee, agreed.

"We look for students that have great personalities and are really excited about what their options are after college," Edwards said. "This has been incredible turnout, and GC students always come very prepared. We can't say enough about the quality of candidate that we get from GC."

Senior Sarah Beller, a biology major, said that she came to the picnic to network with research labs or other companies within the biological sciences field, but she did not find any prospective employers in the field at the picnic. However, she said she enjoyed the picnic and appreciated the Career Center's effort to kick start students' job search.

"I found that GC is putting in a great effort to try to connect us with employers and set us up for success in the real world," Beller said.



Emily Bryant / Staff Photographer

Sponsoring employers recruit GC seniors.

GC ride-sharing service TapRide to debut this fall

Kaylin Martinko
Staff Writer

Georgia College is launching TapRide, a ride-sharing service similar to Uber, later this fall. The service will be available to all GC students, faculty and staff members.

TapRide was created by the Parking and Transportation department at Georgia College. With it, they hope to add new meaning to one of their core values: innovation.

"We want to take Parking and Transportation to the next frontier," said John Jackson, TapRide manager. "The next frontier is on-demand transportation, not a fixed route. Milledgeville isn't big enough to support an Uber, so we looked at how we [could] create this ourselves."

In order to get a ride, one merely needs to "tap" on the GC



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

TapRide will provide students with an alternative transportation method in the local area.

TapRide app and login with their Unify credentials.

"That's awesome! I'll definitely take advantage of that because some of the parking here is so far away," said junior Kayla Henne, who commutes to campus.

TapRide will be available throughout Milledgeville. Running from Kroger, to both east and west campuses, and to Arcadia on the River, it will reach beyond the range of both SNAP and GC's shuttle bus system.

TapRide will run from around 9 a.m. until 3 a.m. and will work alongside SNAP.

"This program is meant to supplement what a great job SNAP does in their limited area around campus," Jackson said.

"As the campus has expanded, there is a need for transportation to go outside of the geographic confines of SNAP."

Unlike Uber, TapRide will cost a consistent \$5 per ride. This price does not change with varying distances or the amount of people in the car.

"It's nice because if a group of friends is going to the same place, they can all catch a ride, and it would still only be \$5," Jackson said.

The drivers will be student workers employed by Parking and Transportation, who must go through a training process to ensure rider safety in order to drive for TapRide. The training includes defensive driving, first aid and BRAVE.

"I feel like this will be safer," said sophomore Ragan Smoak. "If I want to go downtown, it will definitely be faster than walking."

TapRide is expected to become available as early as Oct. 1.

Tropical Storm Irma ravages GC's campus



GC women's soccer coach visits with Guyana National Team

**McKenzie
Julian**
Staff Writer

Head GC women's soccer coach Hope Clark spent this past summer in Guyana, a small country in South America, working with the U17 National Team. She visited Guyana once before in 2010, but this year the program was for CONCACAF, the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football.

"My role mainly was to go in and work with their goalkeepers, which is my specialty, and also to do some coaching education for the head and assistant coaches," Clark said.

Guyana recently developed a women's soccer league, the first of its kind in the country. Clark is excited about this development, as it represents a step forward in women's soccer and growth of the sport across the country.

"They're so proud to represent their country," Clark said. "My No. 1 focus is to give whatever help I can and help grow this sport for women's soccer."

Clark plans on using this experience to help grow GC's soccer team this season.

"One of our core values is gratitude," Clark said. "That's the biggest thing that I can kind of bring back and teach to our athletes: how great we have it and how blessed we are to have the resources available to us here in the US and here at Georgia College."

GC's women's soccer team is young, with seven freshmen on the team of 20 players. Clark said this as an exciting opportunity for the team.

"I'm excited about the growth of this program and where we're going," Clark said.

Junior forward Sofia Lekas and sophomore center back Renee Mike both are optimistic about this season and what Clark will continue to bring to the team.

"She's big on being positive," Lekas said. "When we're being positive on the field and off the field, it really helps when we come to play in games."

In the 2016 season, Lekas scored one goal and had two assists. In her third season playing for Clark, Lekas looks to make more of an impact this year.

Mike, an international student from Trinidad and Tobago, looks forward to playing another season with Clark.

"She sees something in you that you would never see

in yourself, and she drives at that one thing that she knows you can do, and eventually, after time, it will come out, and you will be a better player overall," Mike said.

Mike, whose native country is also part of CONCACAF, spoke of the differences between soccer in Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S.

"Over here, it's more intense," Mike said. "[My teammates] push me to be a better player because of their standards."

Clark hopes to use this experience to build GC's soccer program and improve the team's record. Last year, the team missed playing in the Peach Belt Tournament by one spot.

"[Our goal is] positive movement in our Peach Belt ranking and certainly hosting and moving forward in the Peach Belt," said Clark.



Photo courtesy of GC Sports Information
GC Head Soccer Coach Hope Clark

GC Men's Cross Country, 2017 Border Clash Champions

**Saskia
Lindsey**
Staff Writer

The Georgia College men's cross country team started the season off strong with being named the 2017 Border Clash Champions in Valdosta, Georgia.

Georgia College sophomore Shawn Olmstead came in first place, running the race in 19:38. Olmstead partially credits his win to his coach, Steven Cary.

"Honestly, I just do everything my coach tells me to," Olmstead said.

The Bobcats had three runners in the top five overall. Junior Collin Silliman came in third place with a time of 19:48 and was followed closely by freshman Brennan Silliman, his younger brother, with a time of 19:50.

Silliman says running with his brother Brennan is very competitive, but it helps him perform better. Silliman is also hoping for a great season ahead.

"We have a very young, talented squad," Silliman said. "I see the team succeeding well this year."

Cary is the men's and women's cross country coach and expects a great upcoming season. He said he is focused on the team building a strong foundation so that later in the season when the team "ups the intensity," they will be able to handle it.

Before the Border Clash, the team underwent one of their biggest training weeks, and they were still able to win.

"I thought that speaks volumes about where they're at mentally and just going into the season with the mindset they have," Cary said. "To be fatigued, already, going into the race and still being able to do well—that's what I was looking for."

Cary has strategies he uses for each race which he says create the best performances from the runners. He groups runners together based on their abilities, and, ideally, they will run together to create faster times.

For the Border Clash, Cary grouped Olmstead with brothers Collin and Brennan Silliman, ultimately resulting in first, third, and fourth place wins.



Photo Courtesy of GC Sports Information
GC runners compete in a recent match.

"They executed the plans that I gave them," Cary said. "Part of coaching is not just having the right plan; it's also the day-to-day tweaking of the plan."

The Bobcats still have a long season ahead of them, but Cary and the team plan to work hard in the next ten weeks to continue running well. He said that a large part of running well is mental, so he tries to emphasize visualization and positive self-talk.

"I think if you start running for other people—for a team, for an institution, for your family, whatever the case—it's a little more than just running for yourself," Cary said. "It has that extra intrinsic motivation."

Cary plans to use the momentum the team gained at the Border Clash to continue to succeed this season.

Club Sports offer students high level of competition

Chris Lambert
Sports Editor

Georgia College offers 22 club sports through its Recreational Sports program. Sports such as championship ultimate Frisbee, bass fishing, and lacrosse are well known, but there are many other sports offered that allow students to compete on a higher level than intramurals.

Bert Rosenberger, the director of GC RecSports, is committed to continuing the tradition of successful club sports on campus.

"It gives students an opportunity to let students continue to play sports they loved in high school or to learn new sports that maybe aren't traditional," Rosenberger said.

GC club sports range anywhere from wakeboarding to the newly formed clay target club. The club teams receive funding from SGA and have been known to travel as far as Arizona to compete with other universities.

Although GC may be on the smaller end of the scale as far as size is concerned, Rosenberger said that it is not uncommon for GC teams to beat bigger schools.

Students are the lifeblood of the club sports program, and they make a serious time commitment to be able to participate. For most students, however, it is well worth it.

"I think it's a great opportunity for students who didn't want to go to college for sports," said senior Ben Fleck, MIS major and president of the GC Lacrosse Club.

"You can meet new people, be part of an organization on campus, and compete in a game you love, all while representing GCSU."

GC club sports have had major successes recently. The men's ultimate Frisbee club won the Division III Championship in 2016, defeating Brandeis University to win the title for the Bobcats. The bass fishing club was the top-ranked team for part of last year as well, besting schools such as Clemson and the University of Georgia along the way.

At its heart, the club sports program allows students to continue with a sport they may have loved in high school or to learn a new sport. GC has found success in many of the traditional club sports, but the non-traditional sports have thrived as well.

Junior Matthew Griffin, a member of the Bobcats Rugby Club, has been a club athlete since his freshman year.

"Since I started playing, the Bobcats Rugby Club has placed in the top 50 twice, including a 38th place finish last year," Griffin said.

Club sports typically take members throughout the year and organize their own practices, travel, and games. Students can join a team or find out more through www.imleagues.com, GC's home for intramurals as well as club sports.



Photo courtesy of Ben Fleck
Pictured from left Nick Eldrige, Jacob Lee, Cooper McCullers and Ben Fleck

Young soccer team eyes successful 2017

Graham Hill
Staff Writer

GC Women's Soccer kicked off the season with a strong 2-1 victory against King (Tenn). The Bobcats were propelled to this come-from-behind victory by way of two second half goals from junior forward Amanda Bartholomew off of assists from freshman Cassie Balzano and freshman Becca Morris.

Bartholomew scored both of the Bobcat's goals, beating the keeper for the first goal in the 67th minute and finding the back of the net just 8 minutes later with the decisive second goal.

Head Coach Hope Clarke said she is confident that the striker will continue her goal-scoring ways. "Bartholomew is going to be a force to be reckoned with up top [this season]," said Clarke.

Bartholomew scored three times in their first two games this season, with the third coming in 5-1 defeat at the hands of highly ranked Carson Newman (#25). Despite the loss, Bartholomew said she was pleased to have seen such a strong opponent this early in the year.

"Playing a really good team in the very beginning of our season really just helped us see what we needed to work on," said Bartholomew. The star striker was able to profit off of the new, young talent on the team, as both of her goals were assisted on by freshmen (Balzano and Morris).

With six of the seven freshmen playing significant minutes, Coach Clarke seemed very pleased with the play of the talented young players so far, saying that they have handled the transition to a faster paced college game well.

Freshman Balzano said she is glad to have such a talented, experienced forward like Bartholomew to work with on the field. When asked about how transitioning into school and team has been, Morris said the older girls on the team have helped with the process.

"Everyone is super encouraging when we do something wrong," Morris said. "I don't think anywhere else it would be this easy to transition into the team."

For junior goalkeeper Ashlee Graham, this year will be a different kind of transition as she has a completely different defense in front of her.

"It's kind of hard to adjust to a completely new back line," Graham said. "We're working really hard to get that connection going, and it's only gonna get stronger as we go on."

This new back line will be led by freshman Kai Jeffries who, according to Coach Clarke, is doing very well holding down the center back position.

Following the defeat to Carson Newman, Coach Clarke commented on a couple of things they will need to improve on in the upcoming games.

"We still created a lot of opportunities," Clarke said. "We got in on them a number of times; we just needed to be better with our finishing."

When asked what she thought they would need to work on, Bartholomew said, "Being stronger on the ball and better movement off the ball."

This talented Georgia College team added many new pieces this season. If they find the right way to incorporate those pieces into the team, the Peach Belt Conference will have to keep an eye out for the Bobcats.

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Big Love Calls for a Big production

By Ashley Boyle

Emily Bryant/Staff Photographer

Charles Mee's "Big Love" kicks off Georgia College's fall theater season on Wednesday, September 27. It tells the humorous story of a large wedding ceremony gone awry while also confronting complex issues such as the polarizing nature of gender roles.

"You're going to want to see this," said student director Trey Rutherford as he gestured toward the stage. About 20 performers began a sultry tango number, nailing each swing of the hips as they seduced their partners. He proudly noted that the actors learned the dance the previous night.

"Big Love" offers surprises that Rutherford said are sure to hold the audience at the edge of their seats. The play emphasizes issues that speak to the core of human existence, addressing topics like gender relations, tradition and power.

"It takes issues such as freedom and conflicts between men and women and throws them onstage," director Kathy Newman said.

"Big Love" is a challenge to the actors. They must

use grandiose movements exaggerated by passion while executing an authentic performance and effectively connecting with the audience.

According to Newman, "Big Love" offers a world of extremes, from anguish and passion to hilarity and poignancy.

Audience members may walk away with more questions than answers, since the piece serves to open the mind and initiate dialogue. Characters represent various degrees of masculinity and femininity, each with his or her own set of desires and personal truths.

"Big Love" plays into gender roles, family, and tradition," said senior Will Anderson, who plays Constantine, a determined young man who adheres strongly to tradition. "It offers different perspectives on what it means to be a man or a woman."

The show is a spectacle in itself, featuring balcony rappelling, dance numbers and fight choreography. Audience members should expect the unexpected from

this highly physical performance.

Senior Madison Smith, who plays Olympia, said she finds value in "Big Love's" message of seeking the balance between power and love. The play turns the conventional notion of marriage on its head, reflecting on freedom within the bounds of a relationship as well as on relations between the sexes within a greater social context.

"It's breaking gender norms and telling women that they can have their own expectations and ambitions," Smith said.

"Big Love" tackles issues that have impacted the human experience for centuries. Its may catch audience members off guard as they recognize themselves in the characters onstage.

"I think it's going to slap some people in the face," Smith said. "There's no way someone can leave without being affected."

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